AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims identified in the above application as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A virtual community system ~~over~~ <u>managing</u> a plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by said plurality of users comprising ~~of~~:

a <u>community</u> server;

at least one component ~~operable to~~ monitor<u>ing</u> each of said ~~plurality of~~ users accessing said plurality of resources;

~~and~~ said server ~~operable to associate~~ <u>associating</u> each ~~of said plurality of resources~~ <u>resource</u> accessed by ~~each of said user~~ <u>a particular user</u> to said ~~each particular~~ user; ~~and~~ said server <u>being</u> operable to form a dynamic community for each of said ~~plurality of~~ resources; said community ~~comprising each of said plurality of~~ <u>including those</u> users ~~who is~~ accessing ~~the same said each of plurality of resources~~ <u>said particular resource.</u>

2.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of resources is associated with a corresponding community.

3.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of resources comprises a web resource.

4.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-web resource.

5.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of resources ~~comprises~~ has a unique name.

6.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein users automatically become members of the ~~resource-based~~ virtual community associated with ~~the accessed~~ <u>said particular</u> resource when they access the resource ~~unless the users are required to login to the community server~~.

7.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to provide community services to community members.

8.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to enable communication between community members .

9.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to enable community members to perform community activities.

10.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to provide collaboration between community members.

11.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community.

12.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community.

13.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to provide community members with information regarding the community.

14.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 13, wherein the information comprises information presented to the community members while they are accessing the particular resource.

15.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to enable new community services from provided by community members.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> resources comprise private resources <u>each</u> having a unique name.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to provide community member authentication services.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein the community server is provided by the resource server by setting up and serves the virtual community along with the resource.~~ <u>further comprising a web resource server associated with said particular resource.</u>

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein each ~~of the plurality of web resource servers is operable to~~ <u>web resource server can</u> contact ~~other~~ <u>at least one of said</u> community servers to provide community services.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is disposed behind a firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to provide user privacy preferences to community members.

5

22.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to uniquely identify each community member across multiple communities.

23.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to track community member's activities ~~with the community member's permission~~.

24.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to organize an information content ~~of~~ <u>for</u> each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages.

25.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to keep statistical information regarding the community.

26.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to connect users who have accessed the same resource ~~and users who are accessing the same resource~~.

27.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 1, further comprising a proxy server coupled to the community server and a web resource server, the proxy server operable to serve a web resource content and connect to the community based on the resource being served.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to combine a plurality of communities into a larger community based upon similar ~~topical resources~~ resource use.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to enable searches of each of the plurality of communities from a web site .

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the community server is further operable to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems and communities.

Claims 31-59 (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) A ~~universal~~ virtual ~~communities~~ community system ~~over~~ associating a plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by said ~~plurality of~~ users comprising ~~of~~:

a plurality of virtual ~~community areas~~ communities each having a virtual community area~~,~~ where ~~each of said plurality of resources is~~ resources are mapped to ~~one said plurality of~~ virtual ~~community areas~~ communities by a uniform resource locator~~s~~ (URL~~s~~)~~,~~ and each of said ~~plurality of virtual community areas~~ virtual communities contains community and user ~~accessing~~ information for said ~~mapped~~ resource~~s~~;

7

a user access database ~~that~~ containing resource accessing ~~record~~ records from each of said ~~plurality of~~ users ~~to each of said plurality of~~ <u>for each of</u> <u>said</u> resources<u>;</u>

a ~~universal~~ virtual community server operable to monitor ~~every access~~ <u>accesses</u> from each of said ~~plurality of~~ users to each of said ~~plurality of~~ resources<u>,</u> ~~and then performs additional functions of~~ <u>said server also performing additional</u> <u>functions including</u>:

~~storing said access to~~ <u>recording accesses into</u> said user access database;

mapping ~~said~~ <u>each</u> accessed resource to ~~said~~ <u>a</u> virtual community ~~area by~~ <u>with</u> ~~said~~ <u>a</u> uniform resource locator (URL);

updating said virtual community ~~area~~ with ~~said~~ access from said user to said resource[[;]] <u>.</u>

61.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 60, wherein the virtual community areas are stored in directories, files, or databases.

62.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 60, wherein the ~~global~~ ~~universal~~ virtual community server comprises a group of servers.

63.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 60, wherein the ~~global~~ user <u>access</u> database comprises a distributed database.

64. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein each virtual community area is created on demand when a first user accesses a resource.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 60, wherein the ~~global~~ user <u>access</u> database creates a new user record only when a new user entry is queried and is not yet in the database.

66. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein each virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 60, wherein each virtual community area comprises information regarding ~~the~~ <u>a particular</u> community.

68. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein each virtual community area comprises server side components that support user and community interactivity and activities~~.~~

69. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein each virtual community area may utilize server side technologies including server side script, CGI, Servlet, web services and weblogs.

70.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 60, wherein the ~~global~~ user <u>access</u> database comprises the current status of individual user's information.

71.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 60, wherein the ~~global~~ user <u>access</u> database <u>also</u> stores ~~users'~~ <u>user</u> personal data including messages from other users, preferences or ~~privacy and security~~ <u>privacy/security</u> settings.

72.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 60, wherein the ~~universal~~ community server is operable to group different community areas together to form a larger community for a bigger scope of resources.

73.   (Currently Amended)

A method of forming <u>resource-based</u> virtual ~~community~~ <u>communities</u> ~~in a system~~ with a plurality of users and a plurality of resources, the method comprising the steps of:

allowing each of said ~~plurality of~~ users ~~accesses~~ <u>to access</u> said plurality of resources;

causing a server ~~monitors~~ <u>to monitor</u> each ~~of said plurality of users~~ <u>user</u> accessing ~~said plurality of resources~~ <u>a resource</u>;

causing said server ~~associates~~ to associate each ~~of said plurality of~~

~~resources~~ resource accessed ~~by each of said plurality of users to said each user,~~

with a particular user accessing it;

~~and said server forms~~ causing said server to form a dynamic community

for each of said ~~plurality of~~ resources, said community comprising ~~of each of said~~

~~plurality of~~ those users ~~who is accessing the same said each of plurality of~~

~~resources~~ who have accessed a particular resource.

74.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, wherein the resource

being accessed by the user is a web resource, including a web site, a web page,

a newsgroup or a discussion forum.

75.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, wherein the resource

being accessed by the user is a non-web resource, including a software product,

a bulletin board, a game, an FTP site, a file, an image, a photo, or products that

can be shared by users.

76.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 73, wherein each of the

plurality of accessed resources is associated with a corresponding resource

based virtual community.

77.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 73, further comprising the

step of enabling new community services ~~from~~ for community members.

11

78.	(Currently Amended)	The method of claim 73, further comprising <u>the</u> <u>step of</u> providing users community information and community services[[;]] including hit count, total users, current users, feedback, comments, ratings, reviews, references or other useful information for the resource.

79.	(Currently Amended)	The method of claim 73, further comprising <u>the</u> <u>step of</u> enabling user collaboration with other community members[[;]] including making comments, publishing reviews, rating resources, writing notes, sending messages, sharing whiteboards, chatting, helping each other, asking and answering questions, exchanging ideas, interests matching, scheduling meetings, online auctions, online dating, broadcasting<u>,</u> ~~or other campaigns such as~~ marketing or advertisements.

80.	(Currently Amended)	The method of claim 73~~, wherein each of the~~ ~~plurality of users accessing the resources and resource-based communities~~ ~~comprises~~ <u>further comprising</u> the steps of:

      <u>allowing</u> each of a plurality of users ~~accessing~~ <u>to access</u> the resources;

      <u>causing</u> ~~the~~ <u>an</u> accessed resource ~~returning~~ <u>to return</u> the original resource; and

      <u>causing</u> the accessed resource ~~connecting~~ to connect users to ~~the~~ <u>a</u> virtual community based on the accessed resource.

12

81.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 73, wherein each of the plurality of users accessing the resources comprises further comprising the steps of:

allowing each of a plurality of users accessing to access the resources through a proxy server;

causing the proxy server returning to return the original resource; and

causing the proxy server connecting to connect the user to the a virtual community based on the accessed resource.

82.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 73 , wherein each of the plurality of users accessing the resources comprises further comprising the steps of:

allowing a client side software installed to on a user's computer discovering to discover the resource accessed by the user; and

causing the client side software connecting to connect the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource.

83.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 73, further comprising allowing the user accessing to access the virtual community along with and the accessed resource in a non-distributive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon help messages, task bars or embedded frames inside a current web page.

84. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-Internet based product including a software, ~~a product,~~ a device, an audio file, a video file, a service or ~~other commodities~~ or a commodity.

85. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the user connects to the ~~resource-based~~ virtual ~~communities~~ community through a mobile device ~~including~~ such as a PDA ~~and~~ or a cellular phone.

86. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operable to detect ~~users~~ activity of accessing a resource and connecting to ~~the~~ a virtual community based on ~~the~~ an accessed resource.

87. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software also provides a toolbar button installable on a user's browser operable of connect to the ~~resourced based~~ virtual community when selected by the user.

88. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser operable for connecting to the ~~resourced based~~ virtual community when selected by the user.

89.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 86, wherein the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource.

90.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 86, wherein the client side software is operable to ~~diplay~~ display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the ~~main~~ resource.

91.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software is a standalone software agent.

92.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software is operable to discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers.

93.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 86, wherein the client side software is operable to detect ~~the~~ a current resource being used by hooking into ~~the~~ a protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening ~~to the~~ for system or windows event~~s~~ from browsers, or hooking into process, system ~~and~~ or network APIs.

94.   (previously presented)   The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software is a browser.

95. (previously presented) The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software is operable to make multiple connections to multiple virtual communities based on multiple resources the user is accessing and thus enabling users to participate in multiple communities simultaneously.

96. (previously presented) The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software is a browser plugin integrated in a user's existing web browser.

97. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 96, wherein the browser plugin includes browser helper objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash, ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection, ~~or~~ protocol filters or extension ~~and any other type of software extension~~.

98. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or ~~other~~ extensions.

99. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 86, wherein the client side software is operable to detect ~~the~~ current software used by the user and then connect to ~~the~~ an associated virtual community based on that resource.

100. (previously presented) The system of claim 99, wherein the client side software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and operable to

16

run along with the software resource when the software resource is started by the user.

101.   (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 99, wherein the client side software resides in ~~the~~ a software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications: